TION (SHRI ARIF MOHD. KHAN): (a) to (c) Indian Airlines has a full time but acting Chairman-cum-Man-aging Director. Public Enterprises Selection Board's recommendation for a regular incumbent are being processed.

Combating AIDS

Mr. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that according to a *W.U-O.* report, the country is likely to have about 60,000 AIDS cases over the next five years and that the cifies of Bombay and Madras would be the worst hit wfth AIDS cases;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof stating:—

(i) the percentage of rise in AIDS cases in the country during 1989 and 1990 (till date).

(ii) the cities in the country which have reported maximum number of AIDS cases soTfar (with figures); and

(c) what strategy has been formu lated by Government to effectively check AIDS cases in the country stating the nature of the Central assistance given/proposed* to be given to the State 'Governments to fight the disease?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE ^MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI RASHEED MASOOD^): (a) to (c) There is no such report from WHO. However, an official of WHO[1] Head Quarters, Geneva, has projected these figures in his letter to Director General, Indian Council of Medical: Research. The basis on which the projections have been made are being ascertained.

. The percentage of rise in AIDS cases in. the, country during T98"5 and 3 9.90. (till date! is, as und«r:—

	Jun;, 1989	June, 1990	Percen-tage of inciease
Number ot Full Blown AIDS cases	29	48	(~y/„

Bombay and Madras have reported a relatively larger number of full blown AIDS cases. 19 cases (including 6 foreigners) have been reported in Bombay and 6 cases in Madras,

Government of India rRSS drawn up a Medium Term Plan for prevention of AIDS. In the Medium Term Plan it has been'decided'tq strengthen the existing facilities for treatment of AIDS infected patients in ten Medical Colleges and Hospitals in the country. The expansion of the facilities include:

— providing clinical care to patients with HTV infection;

— providing counselling to the patients and their spouses/relatives;;

•— providing continuous medical care at the O.P.Ds.

[1]— collecting data on clinical profile, immunological profile, opportunistic infections and other manifestations of HIV infection;

— providing training facilities to medical and paramedical person nel in the management of HIV patients.

The Government of India during , the year 1989-90, has released grants to the State Governments of Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu, West Bengal, Uttar Pradesh, Rajasthan, Punjab, Jammu & Kashmir, Orissa, Karnataka, Kerala, Manipur and Goa, and* to the AIIMS, New Delhi for opening AIDS Units for clinical management of AIDS/HIV infected cases, under the National AIDS Control Programme. In addition readers and' kits

ate teing supplied to 41 surveillance centres ancl 28 zonal Blood Testing Centres.

† Post retirement medical facilities to employees of NlPC

*98. SHRI RAJUBHAI A. PARMAR:
SHRIMATI MANORAMA PANDEY:

Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state

(a) whether the National Thermal Power Corporation has formulated a contributory scheme for post retirement medical facilities;

(b) if so, whether it is a fact that tha same is being made applicable to those employees only who retired from thai service of the NTPc on or after the 1st January, 1986;

(c) if so. what are the reasons for fixing the date- and

(d) what is the total number of employees of NTPC who retired from NTPC before the 1st January, 1986 and are being denied the benefit of tha new scheme? ,

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY WITH ADDITIONAL CHARGE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI ARIF MOHD. KHAN): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir.

(c) The Board of Directors of the Corporation while approving the scheme resolved that the scheme would be effec tive from 1.1.1986, the date from which gratuity ceiling is enhanced by the Government.

(d) Seventy five employees in vari, ous categories retired before 1.1.1986 who may not be fulfilling the eligibility criterion.

Setting up of national commission on Bhopal gas tragedy

*99. SHRI GHUFRAN AZAM; Will thug Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS be pleased to state:

(a) whether several organisations working among the Bhopal gas victims have demanded the setting up of a Na tional Commission On Bhopal gas tra gedy for proper implementation of the action plan for mitigating the suffering ir>f the disaster victims; and

(b) if so, what is ihe reactions of the Central Government thereof?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS (SHRI M. &. GURUPADASWAMY): (a) and (b) Covernment ar© aware that certain organisation of Bhopal Gag Victims have demanded the setting up of a National Commission on Bhopal and have taken note of the suggestions.

Proposal for increased utilisation of gas for industrial purposes in Tripura

*100. SHRI NARAYAN KAR: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS bs pleased to refer to the answer to Unstarred Question 600 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 19th March, 1990 and state:

(a) whether Government are aware that Tripura and Bangladesh have com mon gas zone and Bangladesh is about to commence exploration of gas;

(b) whether Government have any proposal to increase the quantum of utilisation of gas by using the same for industrial purpose^ and

(c) if so. what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS (SHRI M. S. GURUPADASWAMY); (a) No, Sir. The g^{as} discoveries made s© far in Tripura and Bangladesh are in different stratigraphic levels and have no common gas zon_e between them.

(b) and (c) Natural gas is being to the following gas based power projects in the State of Tripura:—

(i) Baramura Power Plant — 0.13 MMCMD

(ii) Rokhia Power Plant — 0.05 MMCMD